

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 021280

FOLLOWING REPEAT BUENOS AIRES 0531 ACTION SECSTATE 26 JAN

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 0531

FROM RSO BECKETT

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, ARA, AR, ELAB

SUBJECT: INDUSTRIAL SABOTAGE, LABOR UNION MEMBERS AUSTRAL AIRLINES

1. THE SOURCE OF THIS INFORMATION IS A U.S. CITIZEN REPRESENTING A U.S. COMPANY WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR FURNISHING TECHNICAL GUIDANCE TO BOTH AUSTRAL AND AEREOLINAS. HIS ASSOCIATION WITH THESE COMPANIES IS DAILY AND AT ALL LEVELS. THE REPORTED INFORMATION HAS NOT BEEN CONFIRMED BY THE REPORTING OFFICER. THE SOURCE IS WELL KNOWN TO THE REPORTING OFFICER AND IS CONSIDERED TO BE RELIABLE. THE CONTENTS OF THIS REPORT SHOULD NOT, REPEAT SHOULD NOT BE DISCUSSED WITH FOREIGN NATIONALS SINCE ITS DISCLOSURE COULD PLACE THE LIFE OF THE SOURCE IN JEOPARDY.

2. ON OR ABOUT JANUARY 22, 1976 AN AUSTRAL F-28 AIRCRAFT WAS BEING CHECKED PRIOR TO TAKE OFF. A PROBLEM WAS DETECTED IN A HYDRAULIC SYSTEM WHICH CONTROLLED THE FLAPS.
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AFTER CONSIDERABLE TROUBLE SHOOTING IT WAS DISCOVERED A FUSE

HAD BEEN REMOVED AND A PIECE OF PAPER HAD BEEN INSERTED
IN ITS PLACE.

3. IN THE LINE MAINTENANCE THERE HAS BEEN A GENERAL
SLOW DOWN WITH SEVERAL DELIBERATE ACTS BEING COMMITTED
TO DISRUPT AND DELAY FLIGHT OPERATIONS, I.E., INSPECTION
TAGS BEING REMOVED FROM FIRE EXTINGUISHERS ON AIRCRAFT WHICH WOULD
REQUIRE REPLACEMENT OF THE UNIT BEFORE FLIGHT; REFUELING
CREWS REFUSING TO FILL TANKS UNLESS SAFETY PRECAUTION
SIGNS WERE POSTED.

4. TO THE SOURCE'S KNOWLEDGE, THERE HAVE BEEN NO ACTS OF
SABOTAGE AT AEREOLINAS.

5. SOURCE WAS INFORMED BY A MEMBER OF AUSTRAL STAFF THAT
THE FIVE AUSTRAL UNIONS WERE PREPARED TO ACCEPT AN 18 PERCENT
SALARY INCREASE PLUS 6 PERCENT SOCIAL BENEFITS. THE UNIONS
RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL (IDENTITY OF CALLER UNKNOWN) IN-
STRUCTING THEM NOT TO ACCEPT THE RAISE. A MEETING IS
TO BE HELD ON JANUARY 26, 1976 BETWEEN THE UNIONS REPRESENTING
AEREOLINEAS AND THE PRESIDENT OF AEREOLINAS. SHOULD NO AGREEMENT
BE REACHED THERE WILL BE A GENERAL SLOW DOWN WITH A
DECISION BEING MADE ON JANUARY 28, 1976 AS TO WHETHER OR NOT TO
STRIKE.

6. SOURCE STATED HE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT UNTIL THE WAGE
PROBLEM IS SETTLED EXTREME CARE SHOULD BE USED IN FLYING
ON AIRCRAFT SERVICED BY THE UNIONS. IT WAS HIS OPINION
THAT THE ACTS BEING COMMITTED WERE FOR HAMPERING OPERATION.
BOTH AEREOLINAS AND AUSTRAL ARE INTENSIFYING THEIR INSPEC-
TION PROCEDURES.

HILL

UNQTE. KISSINGER

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